

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-12 /094 W
-----014662 220807Z /14/21

R 201704Z APR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2839
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0249

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING SUBJECT AND TAGS LINES)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS JC SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 17-19

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALT TWO

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE APRIL
19 PLENARY MEETING, WHICH CONCLUDED THE FOURTEENTH
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ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS,
FRG REP BEHRENDIS FORMALLY INTRODUCED THE NEW WESTERN
INITIATIVE. SOVIET REP TARASOV SUBSEQUENTLY STATED AT
THE SAME MEETING THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD
STUDY THE INITIATIVE THOROUGHLY AND INDICATED THAT
THEIR STUDY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY GUIDED BY THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE MET THE CRITERIA OF

MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS AND EQUIVALENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REDUCTIONS BY ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. EASTERN STATEMENTS AT THE END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE REFERRED TO THE WESTERN INITIATIVE IN SIMILAR TERMS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOURTEENTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED WITH THE PLENARY MEETING OF APRIL 19. BOTH FRG REP BEHRENDT AND SOVIET REP TARASOV DELIVERED STATEMENTS AT THAT MEETING. IN HIS PRESENTATION, FRG REP OFFICIALLY PLACED ON RECORD THE TEXT OF THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE WHICH HAD BEEN FIRST PROVIDED EASTERN REPS AT THE APRIL 12 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE TALKS. FRG REP STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INITIATIVE AS A STEP TO MEET MAJOR EASTERN CONCERNS AND TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS DECISIVELY FORWARD TOWARD A FIRST AGREEMENT. HE FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT, IF EASTERN PARTICIPANTS SERIOUSLY DESIRED A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT, THEY SHOULD ACCEPT THE WESTERN APPROACH AS REVISED BY THE WEST'S LATEST PROPOSALS.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS PLENARY STATEMENT, SOVIET REP REFERRED BRIEFLY TO THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE. AFTER STATING THAT ANY MOVE BASED ON THE OLD WESTERN CONCEPTS OF "DISPARITIES" AND "ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS" SECRET

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WOULD BE OF DOUBTFUL VALUE, TARASOV SAID THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD STUDY THE INITIATIVE THOROUGHLY. HE SAID THAT THIS EASTERN STUDY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY GUIDED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE INITIATIVE MET THE CRITERIA OF MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS AND EQUIVALENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO REDUCTIONS BY ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

4. EARLIER IN HIS STATEMENT, TARASOV STRENUOUSLY DEFENDED THE EASTERN CONTENTION THAT THERE WAS ALREADY AN APPROXIMATE EQUALITY BETWEEN THE FORCES OF EAST AND WEST IN THE REDUCTION AREA AND SHARPLY ATTACKED WESTERN CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY. SOVIET REP ALSO STRONGLY CRITICIZED WESTERN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND MANPOWER INCREASES IN THE AREA DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING A SHORT NEGATIVE REFERENCE TO THE ERW DECISION AS A TEMPORARY POSTPONEMENT. FURTHER, TARASOV DENIED ANY MANPOWER OR, BY IMPLICATION, ARMAMENT INCREASES ON THE EASTERN SIDE AND CAUSTICALLY BLAMED THE WEST FOR THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN A PREPARED STATEMENT, THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS

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-----123515 210953Z /21

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DISTRIBUTED, AS WELL AS IN AN ORAL SUMMARY OF THE
SOVIET PLENARY PRESENTATION, EASTERN SPOKESMEN AT
THE REGULAR END-OF-ROUND PRESS CONFERENCE MENTIONED
THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS AND THE EASTERN INTENTION
TO GIVE THEM CAREFUL STUDY AS REGARDS THEIR POTENTIAL
FOR CONTRIBUTING TO PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
THE WESTERN PREPARED PRESS STATEMENT, WHICH ACKNOWLEDGED
ONLY THAT THE INITIATIVE DEALT WITH THE ISSUES OF
SECOND PHASE REDUCTION COMMITMENTS BY DIRECT PARTICI-
PANTS AND THE COMPOSITION OF FIRST PHASE SOVIET
REDUCTIONS, POINTED OUT THAT THE EASTERN REACTION TO
THE NEW WESTERN MOVE WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR
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NOT THE NEGOTIATION WOULD ACTUALLY NOW ENTER A DECISIVE STATE. SPOKESMEN ON BOTH SIDES STOOD ON THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS IN REPLY TO ATTEMPTS BY CORRESPONDENTS TO ELICIT ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON THE WESTERN INITIATIVE.

6. AT THE LAST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE ROUND, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 18, WESTERN REPS UNDERSCORED THE NEED FOR AN EASTERN REPLY TO THE WESTERN INITIATIVE WHICH WOULD OPEN THE WAY FOR AN AGREEMENT AND EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF A PRIOR EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON DATA ON MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA. EASTERN REPS REPEATED THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE WESTERN POSITION ON MANPOWER LIMITATIONS AND ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS AS WELL AS THEIR APPEAL FOR WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE MILITARY MANPOWER FREEZE. THEY ATTACKED THE ACCURACY OF WESTERN ESTIMATES OF WARSAW PACT MILITARY PERSONNEL, ANSWERED SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING WESTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA AND AGAIN URGED ADOPTION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF AVERAGE MANNING LEVELS FIGURES. DURING THE SESSION, EASTERN REPS ALSO REITERATED THAT THEY WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY THE WESTERN INITIATIVE.

7. THE OUTLINE, APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP ON APRIL 19 FOR USE BY NETHERLANDS REP DE VOS IN MAKING THE GROUP'S APRIL 21 REGULARLY SCHEDULED ORAL REPORT TO THE NAC, NOTED THAT WESTERN REPS IN VIENNA WOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO EAST-WEST AGREEMENT ON DATA AS THE BASIC CONDITION OF THE WEST'S NEW INITIATIVE. THE OUTLINE WENT ON TO REPORT THAT EASTERN REPS HAVE BILATERALLY CONCEDED
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THAT THE NEW PROPOSALS DO REPRESENT A MOVE OF SUBSTANCE BY THE WEST. A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE STATUS OF THE DATA DISCUSSION, THE TEXT OF WHICH WAS ALSO APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP ON APRIL 19, CITED RECENT INDICATIONS THAT THE EAST HAS EXCLUDED FROM ITS FIGURES FOR POLISH FORCES UNDER THE HEADING OF TERRITORIAL FORCES A MUCH LARGER NUMBER OF PERSONNEL THAN NATO HAS EXCLUDED UNDER THAT HEADING.

8. THE FIFTEENTH ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF MAY 15. RESOR

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